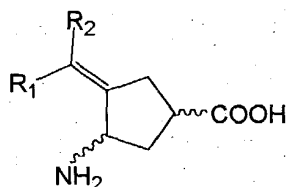


We claim:

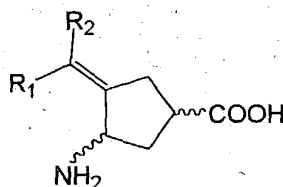
1. A  $\gamma$ -aminobutyric acid aminotransferase inhibitor compound selected from compounds of a formula



wherein R<sub>1</sub> and R<sub>2</sub> are selected from H and F, and at least one of R<sub>1</sub> and R<sub>2</sub> is F; and salts thereof.

2. The inhibitor compound of claim 1 wherein R<sub>1</sub> and R<sub>2</sub> are F.
3. The inhibitor compound of claim 2 wherein said NH<sub>2</sub> and COOH substituents have a stereochemical relationship selected from cis and trans.
4. The inhibitor compound of claim 3 wherein said substituents are cis.
5. The inhibitor compound of claim 2 selected from an ammonium salt and a carboxylate salt of said compound.
6. The inhibitor compound of claim 5 wherein said compound is an ammonium salt, and the counter ion is the conjugate base of a protic acid.
7. The inhibitor compound of claim 5 wherein said compound is a carboxylate, and the counter ion is selected from the conjugate acid of an amine, alkaline and alkaline-earth base.
8. The inhibitor compound of claim 5 wherein said compound is selected from an ammonium hydrochloride salt and a sodium carboxylate.

9. The inhibitor compound of claim 1 wherein one of said  $R_1$  and  $R_2$  is F.
10. The inhibitor compound of claim 9 wherein  $R_1$  is F, and said F and COOH substituents have a Z configuration.
11. The inhibitor compound of claim 10 wherein said  $NH_2$  and COOH substituents have a stereochemical relationship selected from cis and trans.
12. The inhibitor compound of claim 9 wherein  $R_1$  is F, and said F and COOH substituents have an E configuration.
13. The inhibitor compound of claim 12 wherein said  $NH_2$  and said COOH substituents have a stereochemical relationship selected from cis and trans.
14. The inhibitor compound of claim 9 selected from an ammonium salt and a carboxylate salt of said compound.
15. An enzyme-inactivator complex comprising the addition product of a  $\gamma$ -aminobutyric acid aminotransferase and a compound selected from compounds of a formula



wherein  $R_1$  and  $R_2$  are selected from H and F, and at least one of  $R_1$  and  $R_2$  is F; and salts thereof.

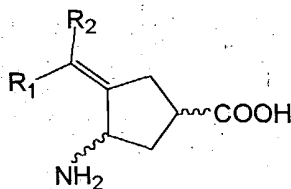
16. The enzyme-inactivator complex of claim 15 wherein  $R_1$  and  $R_2$  of said compound are F.
17. The enzyme-inactivator complex of claim 16 wherein said  $NH_2$  and COOH substituents have a stereochemical relationship selected from cis and trans.

18. The enzyme-inactivator complex of claim 15 wherein one of said  $R_1$  and  $R_2$  is F.

19. The enzyme-inactivator complex of claim 15 wherein said compound is selected from an ammonium salt and a carboxylate salt of said compound.

20. The enzyme-inactivator complex of the claim 15 wherein said addition product further comprises a pyridoxal-5'-phosphate cofactor.

21. A method of inhibiting a  $\gamma$ -aminobutyric acid aminotransferase comprising contacting a  $\gamma$ -aminobutyric acid aminotransferase with an effective amount of a compound selected from compounds of a formula



wherein  $R_1$  and  $R_2$  are selected from H and F, and at least one of  $R_1$  and  $R_2$  is F; and salts thereof.

22. The method of claim 21 wherein  $R_1$  and  $R_2$  are F.

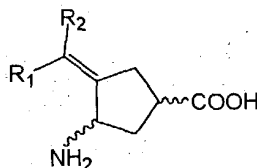
23. The method of claim 22 wherein said  $NH_2$  and  $COOH$  substituents have a stereochemical relationship selected from cis and trans.

24. The method of claim 21 wherein one of said  $R_1$  and  $R_2$  is F.

25. The method of claim 21 wherein said aminotransferase enzyme comprises a pyridoxal-5'-phosphate cofactor.

26. The method of claim 21 wherein said compound is selected from an ammonium salt and a carboxylate salt of said compound.

27. A method of using an electron-deficient exocyclic methylene moiety to inhibit  $\gamma$ -aminobutyric acid aminotransferase activity, said method comprising: providing a compound selected from compounds of a formula



wherein R<sub>1</sub> and R<sub>2</sub> are selected from H and F, and at least one of R<sub>1</sub> and R<sub>2</sub> is F; and salts thereof; and

contacting a  $\gamma$ -aminobutyric acid aminotransferase with said compound, said exocyclic methylene moiety of said compound capable of binding to an active site of said aminotransferase.

28. The method of claim 27 wherein R<sub>1</sub> and R<sub>2</sub> are F.

29. The method of claim 28 wherein said NH<sub>2</sub> said COOH substituents have a stereochemical relationship selected from cis and trans.

30. The method of claim 27 wherein one of said R<sub>1</sub> and R<sub>2</sub> is F.

31. The method of claim 27 wherein said aminotransferase enzyme comprises a pyridoxal-5'-phosphate cofactor.

32. The method of claim 27 wherein said compound is selected from an ammonium salt and a carboxylate salt of said compound.